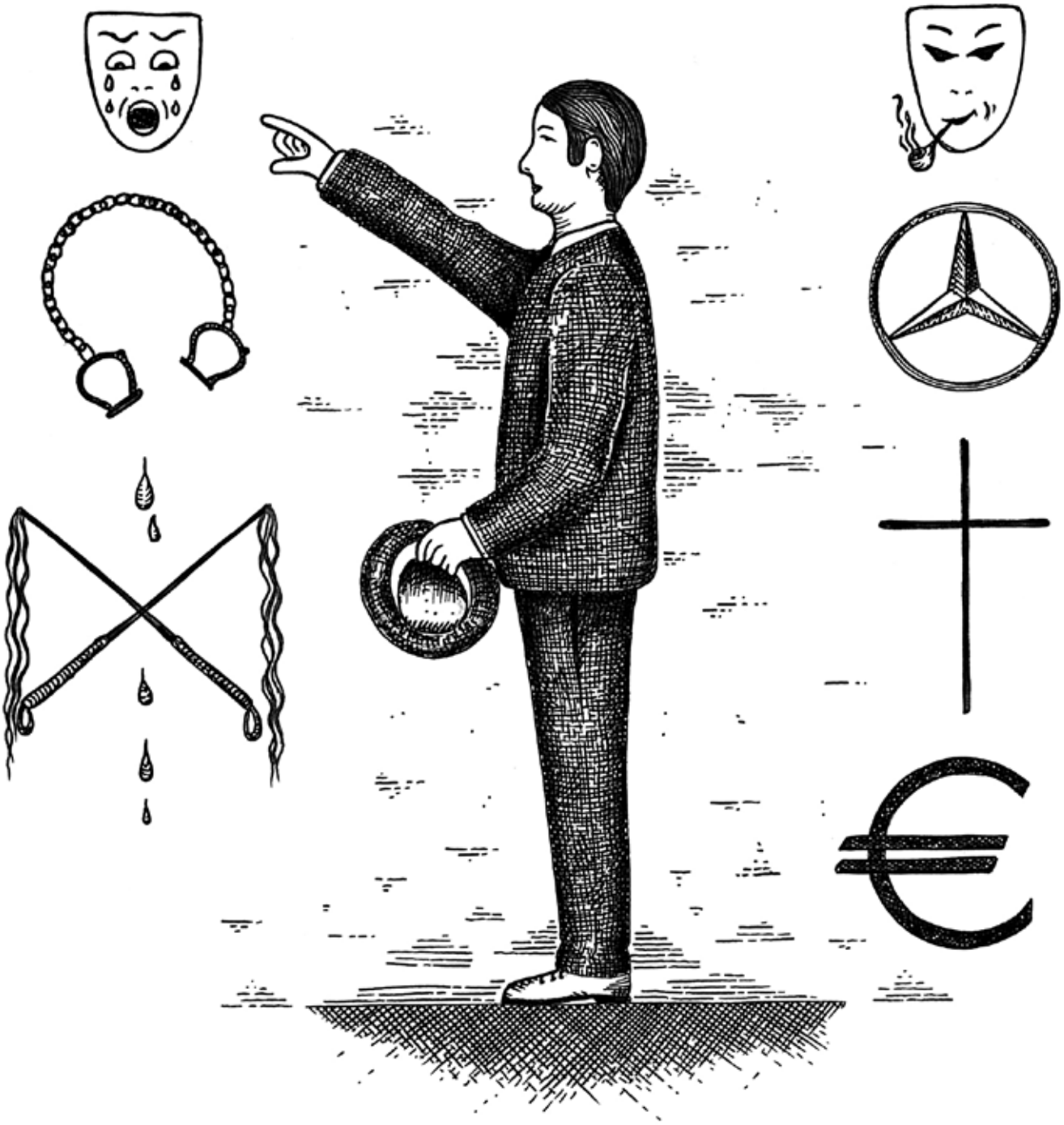
Satirical Newspaper

ΤΟ ΓΕΛΙΟ

Omikron Gallery → Nicosia Cyprus
Ltd. Ed. May 2012 —— Edited by Peter Eramian



The Laughter

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Program

Program

It is my sincere belief that our country needs, first and foremost, a satirical newspaper.

Because things that require serious journalism and study don't exist here. Fortunately we manage to make even the most serious things **LAUGHABLE**.

For this reason I decided to publish **THE LAUGHTER**, satirizing everything that other journalists are serious and, more often than not, insincere about.

Thinking of the words of Psycharis **"A PEOPLE PROGRESSES WHEN IT LEARNS NOT TO BE AFRAID OF THE TRUTH"** I find no journalist that has indeed progressed, since everyone is afraid of truth.

But because I do not want this to seem as if I am lying, I would like to say the following:

— MANY TIMES I, TOO, WILL BE FORCED TO BE AFRAID OF THE TRUTH BECAUSE I AM NOT INDEPENDENT. —

But I will try as much as I can, as much as, that is, my bosses permit me (and for a teacher the whole world is made of bosses), to strike falsehood and defend the truth.

—— *George A. Fasouliotis*, "ΓΕΛΙΟ" issue 01, December 1, 1928.

Airplane

Extravaganza!

Fun for children and adults
only at —— **My International Mall of Cyprus**

PANIC: ——

Mass riots rock Cyprus

PROMPTED BY "THE DEATH OF THE MOTHER"

— ...we are seeing relatively large numbers of people casting off their fears. Despite the very real risk of arrest, they are refusing to be intimidated. —

Panic: Mass Riots Rock Cyprus Prompted by "The Death of the Mother"

Riots and violence have erupted in at least five major towns and several villages across Cyprus, leaving several injured, including police officers. The shockingly unexpected events that shook both sides of the island lasted throughout the night and there are fears they may continue today. Thousands of protesters marched en masse destroying banks, occupying government buildings and setting fire to dozens of shops and cars. Youngsters overturned rubbish bins, threw petrol bombs, rocks and other missiles at the police, who responded with tear gas and in several cases extreme force. Security forces sealed off the towns, attempting without success to kettle demonstrators in several central locations.

The panic started after a group of activists, calling themselves "Οί Μαμόθρεφτοι" ("Mama's Boys"), declared "The Death of the Mother" during a public performance. Their banners read: "We are not infants, we are free–thinkers." The gigantic upheaval is attributed to a long and deep accumulation of explosive factors: lack of respect for human integrity, massive dependencies on banks and financial institutions both local and international, widespread endemic corruption and unemployment, huge social and economic inequalities, political parties void of true democratic legitimacy, citizens treated as servile subjects, patronising foreign political interventions and asphyxiation by the so–called "mother nations". Social media and printed matter were used to orchestrate the events and circulate the activist group's manifesto: "The Death of the Mother (and the Birth of the Listener)".

Mrs Androula, a resident of Nicosia, said: "I think this is about sheer criminality. That is what we have seen on the streets. The violence we've seen, the looting we've seen, the thuggery we've seen — this is sheer criminality, and let's make no bones about it."

Our political analyst reports: "What we are seeing, firstly, is the failure of a system constructed over many years to prevent people from organising, communicating and demonstrating. Secondly, we are seeing relatively large numbers of people casting off their fears. Despite the very real risk of arrest, they are refusing to be intimidated. The rioting reflects a deeply flawed economic and social ethos… reckless consumption of borrowed money, the breakdown both of top–end accountability and of trust in both local and foreign institutions, and severe failings by those in power on both sides."

Amid intense pressure on police resources the military is expected to take an increased — though still indirect — role in anticipated events. Baton charges, dogs and rubber bullets will be used to disperse crowds. The Cyprus chief of police has warned that if violence escalates it might be necessary to bring in reinforcements from Greece and Israel, and possibly the UK. It remains unclear how Turkish Cypriot authorities will be responding.

The Laughter

An Activist Pamphlet 05.2012

The Death of the Mother

The Death of the Mother (and the Birth of the Listener)

× — **Free thinking is the destruction of every voice, of every point of origin. Free thinking is that neutral, composite, oblique space where our subject slips away, the negative where all identity is lost, starting with the very identity of the body.**

No doubt it has always been that way. As soon as a thought is narrated no longer with a view to acting directly on reality but intransitively, that is to say, finally outside of any function other than that of the very practice of the thinking itself, this disconnection occurs, the voice loses its origin, the Mother enters into her own death, free thinking begins. The sense of this phenomenon, however, has varied; in ethnographic societies the responsibility for a narrative is never assumed by a person but by a mediator, shaman or relator whose 'performance' — the mastery of the narrative code — may possibly be admired but never his 'genius'. The Mother is a modern figure, a product of our society insofar as, emerging from Christian morality, she discovered the prestige of the individual, of, as it is more nobly put, the 'human person'. It is thus logical that it should be this positivism, the epitome and culmination of capitalist ideology, which has attached the greatest importance to the 'authority' of the Mother. The Mother still reigns in history texts, biographies, interviews, magazines, as

The removal of the Mother is not merely an historical fact; it utterly transforms modern history (or — which is the same thing — history is henceforth made and read in such a way that at all its levels the Mother is absent). The temporality is different. The Mother, when believed in, is always conceived of as the past of her own history: history and Mother stand automatically on a single line divided into a before and an after. The Mother is thought to nourish history, which is to say that she exists before it, thinks, suffers, lives for it, is in the same relation of antecedence to it as a father to his child. In complete contrast, the free thinker is born simultaneously with the thought, is in no way equipped with a being preceding or exceeding the thinking, is not the subject with the history as predicate; there is no other time than that of the enunciation and every thought is eternally thought here and now. The fact is (or, it follows) that thinking can no longer designate an operation of recording, notation, representation, 'depiction' (as the Classics would say); rather, it designates exactly what linguists, referring to Oxford philosophy, call a performative, a rare verbal form (exclusively given in the first person and in the present tense) in which the enunciation has no other content (contains no other proposition) than the act by which it is uttered — something like the I declare of kings or the I sing of very ancient poets. Having buried the Mother, the modern free thinker can thus no longer believe,

Once the Mother is removed, the claim to decipher a thought becomes quite futile. To give a thought a Mother is to impose a limit on it, to furnish it with a final signified, to close the thought process. Such a conception suits criticism very well, the latter then allotting itself the important task of discovering the Mother (or its hypostases: society, history, psyche, liberty) beneath the thought: when the Mother has been found, the thought is 'explained' — victory to the critic. Hence there is no surprise in the fact that, historically, the reign of the Mother has also been that of the critic, nor again in the fact that criticism (be it new) is today undermined, along with the Mother. In the multiplicity of thinking, everything is to be disentangled, nothing deciphered; the structure can be followed, 'run' (like the thread of a stocking) at every point and at every level, but there is nothing beneath: the space of thinking is to be ranged over, not pierced; thinking ceaselessly posits meaning ceaselessly to evaporate it, carrying out a systematic exemption of meaning. In precisely this way the act of thinking, by refusing to assign a 'secret', an ultimate meaning, to the thought (and to the world as thought), liberates what may be called an anti-theological activity, an activity that is truly revolutionary since to refuse to fix meaning is, in the end, to refuse God and his hypostases — reason, science, law.

No one, no 'person', thinks: its source, its voice, is not the true place of the thought,

An Activist Pamphlet

(and the Birth of the Listener)

in the very consciousness of men anxious to unite their person and their identity to her. The image of thinking to be found in ordinary culture is tyrannically centred on the Mother, her person, her life, her tastes, her passions. The explanation of society is always sought in the man or woman who produced it, as if it were always in the end, through the more or less transparent allegory of the fiction, the voice of a single person, the Mother 'confiding' in us.

Though the sway of the Mother remains powerful (the new criticism has often done no more than consolidate it), it goes without saying that certain thinkers have long since attempted to loosen it. It is thinking itself which speaks, not the Mother; to think is, through a prerequisite impersonality (not at all to be confused with the castrating objectivity of the positivist), to reach that point where only thinking acts, 'performs', and not 'me'. Linguistics has recently provided the destruction of the Mother with a valuable analytical tool by showing that the whole of the enunciation is an empty process, functioning perfectly without there being any need for it to be filled with the person of the interlocutors. Linguistically, the Mother is never more than the instance writing, just as I is nothing other than the instance saying I: language knows a 'subject', not a 'person', and this subject, empty outside of the very enunciation which defines it, suffices to make language 'hold together', suffices, that is to say, to exhaust it.

as according to the pathetic view of his predecessors, that this mind is too slow for his thought or passion and that consequently, making a law of necessity, he must emphasize this delay and indefinitely 'polish' his form. For him, on the contrary, the mind, cut off from any voice, borne by a pure gesture of cogitation (and not of expression), traces a field without origin — or which, at least, has no other origin than itself, thinking which ceaselessly calls into question all origins.

We know now that a thought is not a line of words releasing a single 'theological' meaning (the 'message' of the Mother–God) but a multi-dimensional space in which a variety of thoughts, none of them original, blend and clash. The thought is a tissue of quotations drawn from the innumerable centres of culture. The thinker can only imitate a gesture that is always anterior, never original. His only power is to mix thoughts, to counter the ones with the others, in such a way as never to rest on any one of them. Did he wish to express himself, he ought at least to know that the inner 'thing' he thinks to 'translate' is itself only a ready–formed thought, explainable through other thoughts, and so on indefinitely. Succeeding the Mother, the free thinker no longer bears within him passions, humours, feelings, impressions, but rather this immense archive from which he draws thoughts that can know no halt: life never does more than imitate history, and history itself is only a tissue of signs imitation that is lost, infinitely deferred.

which is listening. Thus is revealed the total existence of thinking: a thought is made of multiple thoughts, drawn from many cultures and entering into mutual relations of dialogue, parody, contestation, but there is one place where this multiplicity is focused and that place is the listener, not, as was hitherto said, the Mother. The listener is the space on which all the quotations that make up a thought are inscribed without any of them being lost; a thought's unity lies not in its origin but in its destination. Yet this destination cannot any longer be personal: the listener is without history, biography, psychology; he is simply that someone who holds together in a single field all the traces by which the thought is constituted. Which is why it is derisory to condemn the new thinking in the name of a humanism hypocritically turned champion of the listener's rights. Classic criticism has never paid any attention to the listener; for it, the thinker is the only person in thinking. We are now beginning to let ourselves be fooled no longer by the arrogant antiphrastical recriminations of good society in favour of the very thing it sets aside, ignores, smothers, or destroys; we know that to give free thinking its future, it is necessary to overthrow the myth: the birth of the listener must be at the cost of the death of the Mother. — ×

EXPOSED: ——

British nuclear testing at Mari

BUT SBA'S REJECT CLAIM AS UNFOUNDED

Exposed: British nuclear testing at Mari
But SBA's reject claim as unfounded

Low levels of radiation were detected at Mari soon after containers with munitions that had been stored there exploded on July 11, 2011, it has been revealed. The information was kept under wraps so as not to cause panic and confusion over what scientists say are harmless levels of radiation. Initially, the discovery made little sense to the team of scientists who were unable to confirm the source of the radiation. None of the munitions and explosives unloaded from the Monchegorsk cargo ship were nuclear and if they had been the levels of radiation would have been much higher.

After almost a year of research, scientists have concluded that the radiation must have occurred many years ago. A historian specialising in Cyprus military history shed light on this discovery with an exclusive and highly controversial finding – a picture of British soldiers at Mari in the 1950s posing for a photograph with a controlled nuclear explosion being tested in the background – explaining the radiation. It is believed that the nuclear bomb seen tested in the picture was a prototype of the Red Beard, a follow up to the infamous Blue Danube (a.k.a. Smallboy).

British officials dismissed this information as "just another conspiracy theory" and have rejected the photograph as "evidently doctored".

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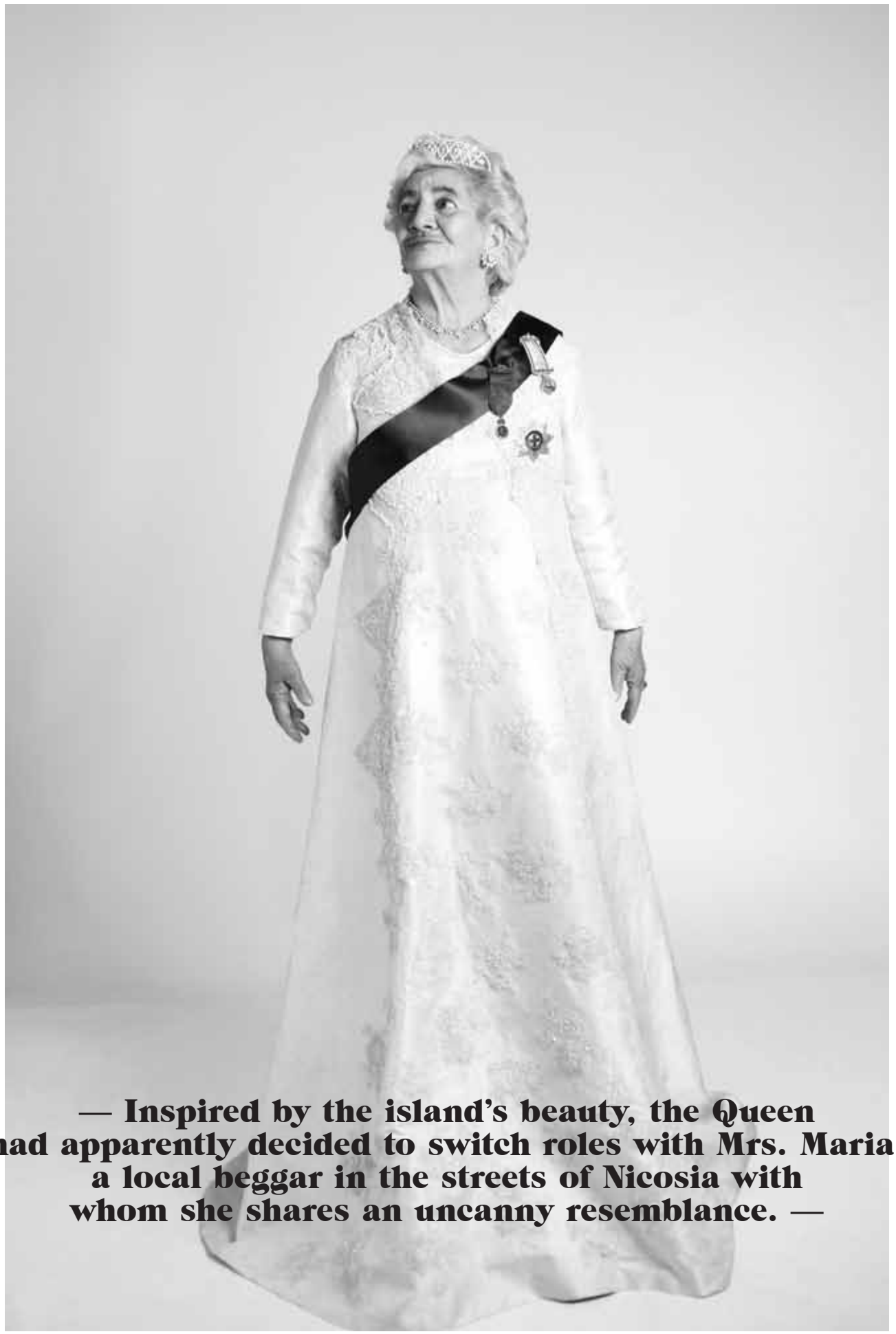
UN Go-Karts Mayhem!

An explosion of fun
only at —— **My International Mall of Cyprus**



— Inspired by the island's beauty, the Queen had apparently decided to switch roles with Mrs. Maria, a local beggar in the streets of Nicosia with whom she shares an uncanny resemblance. —

SCANDAL:

The Queen and the Pauper

SHOCK AS TRUE IDENTITY OF ELIZABETH II REVEALED

Scandal: The Queen and the Pauper
Shock as true identity of Elizabeth II revealed

The world was yesterday left reeling in shock following the latest and most embarrassing diplomatic scandal that has shaken Cyprus and the UK.
The shocking revelations, made public as Britain prepares to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, suggest the real Queen of England has in fact been residing in Cyprus ever since she visited the island for the Commonwealth Summit in 1993. Inspired by the island's beauty, the Queen had apparently decided to switch roles with Mrs. Maria, a local beggar in the streets of Nicosia with whom she shares an uncanny resemblance.

The switch, which was made in complete secrecy, was intended to be a temporary learning experience for the Queen. However, in the months that followed no one believed either the Queen, who was declared insane for obsessively trying to convince people of her royal status in the streets of Nicosia, or Mrs. Maria, who was confidentially declared mentally ill as huge efforts were made to conceal the fact that she had been insisting on speaking an incomprehensible dialect that experts were unable to define, which later emerged to be Cypriot.

After almost two decades of public appearances as the Queen of England, most recently at the widely televised Royal Wedding, Mrs. Maria is scheduled to return to her home as the Queen heads back to Buckingham Palace. Large crowds are expected to gather at Larnaca airport to welcome back Mrs. Maria.

Dixan

The Laughter

JUSTICE: ——

MESON Card

NEW SCHEME TO LEGALISE CORRUPTION

Justice: MESON Card
New Scheme to legalise corruption

The Cyprus Parliament yesterday voted by a large majority to officially legalise corruption. The Minister of Justice and Public Order explained that since corruption cannot be avoided in a country such as Cyprus, there was no other option but to embrace it. He argued that history has proven that decriminalising an illegal offence often has the effect of diminishing the desire to commit it. Further, corruption in Cyprus is in fact so widespread, even within the justice system, that legalising it would benefit Cypriot society by saving money, increasing transparency and cutting bureaucracy.

Central to the new law will be the MESON subscription cards scheme, offered in three plans: silver, gold and platinum. The silver MESON card will give its subscribers access to small-scale benefits, such as illegal parking, smoking in public places, speeding, and a range of discounts at selected stores. It will cost just € 10,000 a year. The gold MESON card, at € 50,000 a year, will offer larger benefits, such as immediate access to healthcare, advanced educational training and scholarships, and better employment opportunities, as well as all the benefits of the silver card. The platinum MESON card, considerably more expensive at € 250,000 a year, will include better loans and savings plans, access at government meetings on both foreign and domestic affairs, reduced sentences if convicted, and double voting power in elections, as well as all the benefits of the silver and gold cards.

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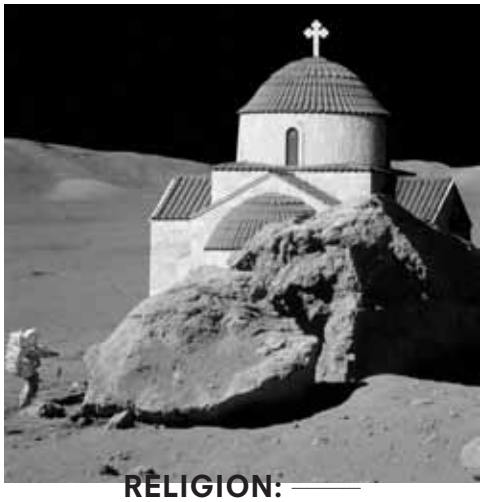
The Laughter

The thrill—ride of your life
only at —— **My International Mall of Cyprus**

The Green Line Rollercoaster!



RELIGION: ——

"One small step for Cyprus, one giant leap of faith for humanity"

ARCHBISHOP AIMS FOR THE MOON

Religion: "One small step for Cyprus, one giant leap of faith for humanity" Archbishop aims for the moon

The Archbishop today announced plans to build the first church on the moon. "Available space in Cyprus," he argued, "is becoming increasingly limited as we develop; we need to expand to new virgin territory. Since the moon will, no doubt, be inhabited one day, why not get there first?" The agreement is covered by a staggering multi-billion euro deal reached between the Russian Federal Space Agency, a Russian international club of philanthropists and the Church of Cyprus.

An official spokesman for the project announced that this was one small step for Cyprus, one giant leap of faith for humanity. Economic, political and technological relations between Cyprus and Russia have been especially strong in the last few years, with large investments in construction, finance and tourism. This new venture is said to symbolise the common faith and mutual trust between the two nations.

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The Laughter

DEVELOPMENT: ——

"My International Mall of Cyprus" and "1974 Theme Park"

BUFFER ZONE AIRPORT TO SERVE AS MODEL FOR REUNIFIED ISLAND

— It was designed to promote love, equality and peace among all castes and creeds, but nevertheless to also offer the democratic right of advanced warfare if necessary. —

Development: "My International Mall of Cyprus" and "1974 Theme Park" Buffer zone airport to serve as model for reunified island

The mayor of Nicosia yesterday announced that a deal was struck to regenerate and transform the old abandoned airport of Nicosia into a large bi-communal luxury mall and theme park. The deal was reached between the United Nations, Noble Energy, a few so far unnamed foreign investors and one of Cyprus' biggest business tycoons. An official spokesperson for the project said that this was an especially significant development in bridging relations between the two Cypriot communities - proof that a common free market space can work wonders in enhancing peace and bringing people together.

The basement floor will accommodate the world's largest religions along with major arms manufacturers and the porn industry (with special discounted services for loyal customers). It was designed to promote love, equality and peace among all castes and creeds, but nevertheless to also offer the democratic right of advanced warfare if necessary.

Next, the ground floor will celebrate the global economy, with special focus on banks, financial institutions and the tobacco, alcohol and medical industries, which offer health, prosperity and jobs to millions across the world. Noble Energy and the United Nations, the mall's primary sponsors, will be present on this floor welcoming visitors. Across the ground and first floors a few clothing and luxury accessory shops will also be available for those who wish to treat themselves to something nice.

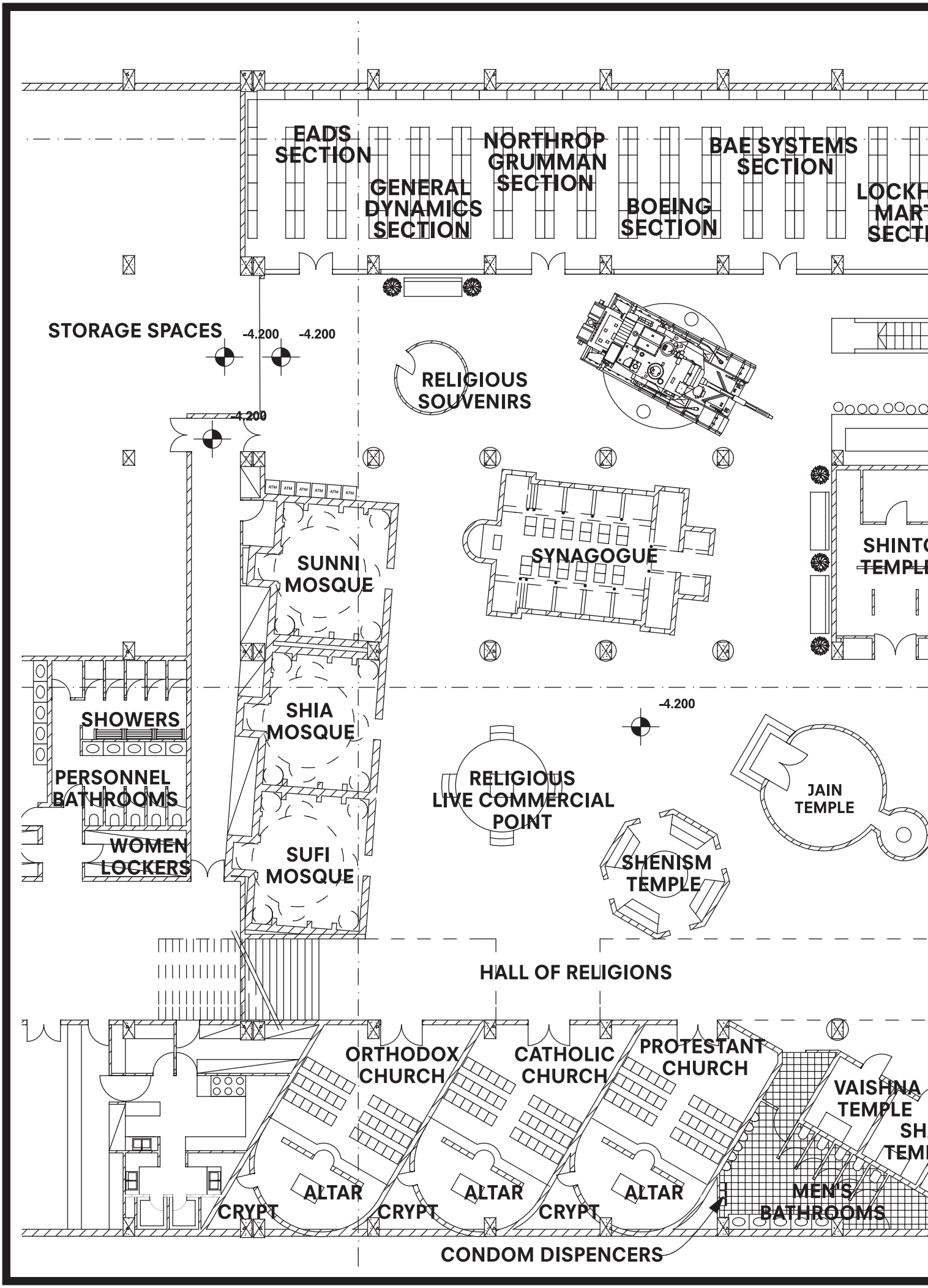
The first floor will offer culinary aficionados a wealth of affordable choices and cosmopolitan variety in many different colourful cuisines to indulge in with a clear conscience. A small fraction of all profits made on this floor will be donated to fighting hunger across the world.

Finally, the second floor will be exclusively reserved for entertainment, housing a large casino with countless slot machines and many roulette and craps tables – a celebrated pastime across the island. One of the three 1974 themed rides will be on offer on this floor, the Green Line Roller Coaster, delivering a guaranteed thrill ride stretching across the second floor and shooting to the skies with several exits on the mall's roof.

Another two 1974 themed rides will be available outside the mall, the UN Go Karts Mayhem race track and the Airplane Extravaganza, offering spectacle and adrenaline pumping action entertainment for everyone.

One of the underlying ethical intentions of these rides will be to lighten the trauma of 1974 so that the two communities of Cyprus can finally move on to transforming the island into the peacefully united Middle Eastern prosperous cultural hub it has the potential to be. Architect Philippos Zannettos, of Zannettos Architects, was quoted as saying that his design embodies Cyprus' enormous potential within the framework of the powerful discourses of global market cosmopolitanism.

The Laughter


EADS SECTION
GENERAL DYNAMICS SECTION
NORTHROP GRUMMAN SECTION
BOEING SECTION
BAE SYSTEMS SECTION
STORAGE SPACES
-4.200
-4.200
-4.200
RELIGIOUS SOUVENIRS
SUNNI MOSQUE
SYNAGOGUE
SHIA MOSQUE
SUFI MOSQUE
SHOWERS
PERSONNEL BATHROOMS
WOMEN LOCKERS
-4.200
RELIGIOUS LIVE COMMERCIAL POINT
JAIN TEMPLE
SHENISM TEMPLE
HALL OF RELIGIONS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
CATHOLIC CHURCH
PROTESTANT CHURCH
VAISHNA TEMPLE
ALTAR
ALTAR
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CRYPT
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CRYPT
MEN'S BATHROOMS
CONDOM DISPENCERS

EMERGENCY WHEELCHAIR
EMERGENCY EXIT (TOP SECRET)
MARRIAGE COUNSELING
WEAPONS' PARADISE
RECEPTION WAITING AREA
ORGY BATHS PRESIDENTIAL
ORGY BATHS V.I.P
-4.200
BAR
SIKHISM TEMPLE
BUDDHIST MONASTERY
WATER POOL
CHEONDOISM MONASTERY
ORGY BATHS
PLAYBOY CHAPEL
BAHA I TEMPLE
CHURCH OF WORLD MESSIANITY
-4.200
BAR
THE PIMP
-4.200
WICCA TEMPLE ALTAR
SPIRITISM TEMPLE
RED-ROOMS
SHAKTI TEMPLE
LIGHTING AND SOUND CONTROL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

"The Laughter" exhibition: "The Laughter" exhibition took place at Omikron Gallery in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 30 May to 21 June 2012. Based on the satirical newspaper "Γέλιο" (Laughter) published in Cyprus by George A. Fasouliotis from 1928 to 1938. All artworks by Peter Eramian and collaborators. Images found on the internet were used in some of the compositions. For more information on individual artworks please contact Omikron Gallery. Thanks to Maria Hadjiathanasiou and Katerina Katsanou for their assistance. Special thanks to Maria Stathi, director and curator at Omikron Gallery, for her invaluable support and belief in the project.

"The Laughter" newspaper: Limited edition prints: 150 Greek and 100 English. Texts by Peter Eramian. Designed by TWO (Think Work Observe). English to Greek translations by Philip Philippou. Black soya based ink, risograph printed, Cyclus 115 gsm paper, Hato Press, London. Cover illustration by Philippos Vasiliades, based on the cover of "Γέλιο" (Laughter) issue 01, 1 December, 1928.

"The Death of the Mother": Filmed and edited by Ivan Charalambous at Crewhouse Media. Thanks to George Georgiou, DueCapi and the musicians: Dimos Charalampous, Kleanthis Demetriou, Thelios Georgiou, Iro Michael, Anna Pavlou, Eliana Pavlou, Lambis Pavlou, Marios Pavlou, Annini Tsiouti. Thanks to Christakis Klitou for entrusting us the use of one of his coffins. Flowers from Kamelia flower shop. Thanks to everyone who assisted on the day of the shoot. Dedicated to all the mothers who lovingly raised their children to be strong and independent.

"The Death of the Mother" activist pamphlet: Based on Roland Barthes' "The Death of the Author". Rewritten by Peter Eramian. Designed by TWO (Think Work Observe). English to Greek translation by Philip Philippou. Black soya based ink, risograph printed, Evercolour pale green 80 gsm paper, Hato Press, London.

"British Nuclear Testing at Mari": Original image from the National Army Museum webpage: Men of the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) with Mk I Ferret Scout Car in the Troodos mountains, 1957. NAM. 1992-08-65-86.

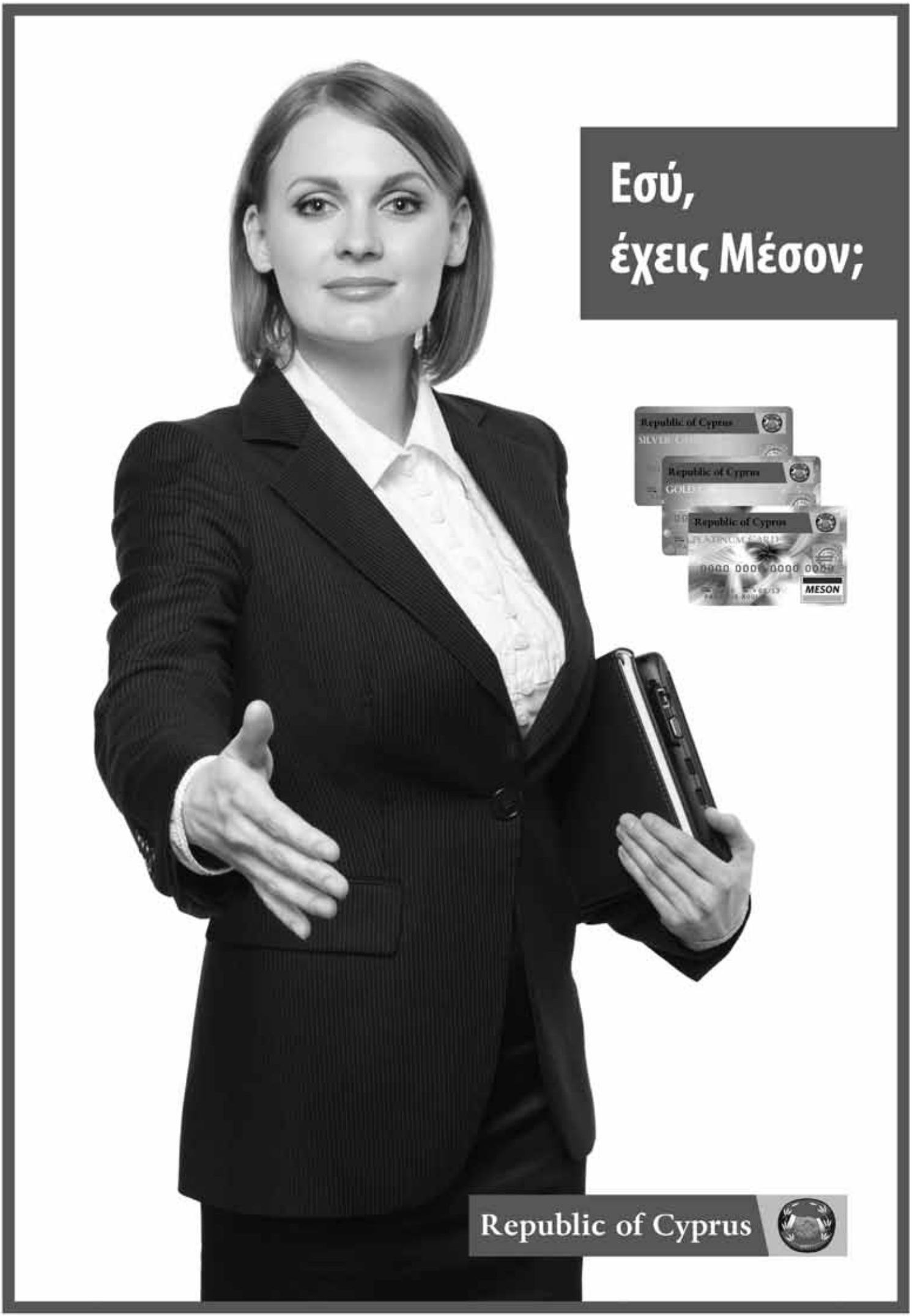
"The Queen and the Pauper": Queen's Royal costume created by Clio Alphas. Queen's 'Sunday best' costume selected by Clio Alphas. Special thanks to Mrs. Maria Aresti for posing as the Queen of England. Photographs by Stelios Kallinikou. Make up by Eliana Mandrides. Hair by Konstantinos Mantziokas.

"MESON Card": Printed at Plastic Cards Direct, London.

"One small step for Cyprus, one giant leap of faith for humanity": Images by NASA.

"My International Mall of Cyprus": Concept in collaboration with architect Philippos Zannettos of Zannettos Architects. All architectural plans by Philippos Zannettos. Maquette by Lia Petridou of Arts Quorum.

— The intention of this project is to pose questions and inspire critical dialogue, and not to offend anyone. A big special thanks to my family, friends and teachers for their unconditional love and guidance. In tribute to those who stood and fought for truth, equality and freedom of speech. —


Εσύ,
έχεις Μέσον;
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MESON
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